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News From Our Local Churches - February 2012



Winter Retreat at Blowing Rock

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend has become a gathering time at the Blowing Rock Conference Center for the youth of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the UCC for a number of years. Each year more and more youth and young adults bring to the annual Winter Youth Retreat (WYR) their thoughts and enthusiasm. This year's retreat welcomed 185 dynamic perspectives on the theme of "Justice Makers: A Call to Action."



Each year we are amazed by the depth with which our youth engage these topics, and we are extremely pleased to know that the churches in these two conferences support youth ministry and youth leadership. Our hope is that the knowledge gained by the leaders who bring the kids each year and who help to guide our small groups will carry over to the congregations and will help strengthen the various youth ministries in our denomination, for they are an integral piece of our justice making efforts. [Link and select "Awesome Winter Retreat."](#)

[Click for Slideshow!](#) [Click for Slideshow!](#)

Youth Travel in Search of Snow

The youth from First Congregational Church in Atlanta traveled to Blowing Rock, North Carolina for the annual winter retreat. "It was a great experience for me to explore my faith," said Aaron Cheese, a 10th grader who was excited to



**Southeast Conference
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST**

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Driskell uses broad brush to inspire Black History Month worship gathering

The "good news" can be delivered via myriad methods, and if you ask David C. Driskell, it may well involve a paintbrush, a keyboard or a strong set of pipes. Appearing on the eve of the Lenten season as part of the UCC's celebration of Black History Month, the 80-year-old Driskell is one of the world's leading authorities on African-American art.

participate this year. "By sharing stories of injustices, the youth were given a chance to see that injustice anywhere, whether it is happening to their neighbors or to someone half way around the world, affects us all," said Mo Morgan, an adult volunteer.

Although the focus of the retreat was justice, skiing ended up being a big part of the weekend. For many it was their first experience. Moreover, as exciting as it was to play in the snow, the ultimate take away message was how we can be involved in the greater work of the UCC and in justice work at home. [Link and select "Awesome Winter Retreat."](#)



Interfaith Leaders at 3-Day Dedication Program

Sheikh Jamal Rahman, Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Don Mackenzie, interfaith religious

leaders, shared their beliefs during the three-day expansion dedication program at Pleasant Hill Community Church, United Church of Christ.

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The church expansion project was finished just in time for Christmas 2011. The formal dedication of the expansion was a three-day affair highlighted by the visit of three unique friends — a rabbi, a pastor and a sheikh. They often call themselves the "interfaith amigos" on their Interfaith Talk Radio show in the state of Washington. Their relationship goes to the heart of interfaith understanding and embodies a revolutionary spirit of healing. *View more event photos by clicking on the slide show on left.*

[Link to the Crossville Chronicle website to read the entire article.](#)

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EVENTS CALENDAR

February 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3

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